

# City of St. Francis

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MAYOR  
Al Richards

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
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OCT 15 2009  
Commissioners' Office

October 13, 2009

Eric Callisto, Chairperson & Members of  
Wisconsin Public Service Commission  
610 North Whitney Way  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear PSC Members:

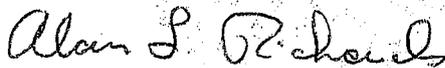
Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) rate Proposed increase request would result in a 28.5% increase in water rates to retail customers. The increase is in addition to the 3.8% increase that went into effect on September 1, 2009, which was previously granted by the Public Service Commission as part of the simplified rate increase. As this proposed outrageous request would also affect hydrant retail from the City of Milwaukee, this would put the City of St. Francis in violation of state levy and budget restraints resulting in penalties that would be imposed because of this "rate Adjustment" to supplement another community's general fund and tax rate.

It is extremely important to note that City of Milwaukee Resolution File No. 090239 reads, "Whereas, A multi-year strategy of regular rate increases and cost containment could make a \$3 million dividend a sustainable annual payment from the Milwaukee Water Works to the general fund; ..." In essence, our municipalities and our constituents are facing long-term continual rate increases in order to provide long-term contributions to Milwaukee's general fund.

The Commission is required to assure that utility rates are "just and reasonable." The dramatic increase proposed by the Milwaukee Water Works, for the purpose of bolstering the general fund of the City of Milwaukee, would be an unjust and unreasonable burden on the ratepayers and taxpayers in our community who would see no benefit from the increase or from such general fund contributions.

We urge the PSC to deny this proposed rate increase as it unfairly allows the City of Milwaukee to balance its annual operating budget at the expense of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Al Richards, Mayor

Cc: State Senator Plale  
State Representative Simcki  
Common Council Members